

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 19 and 27-29, and add new claim 30 as follows:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A magnetic head comprising:

a slider having a rail with a top surface;

a thin-film element part to write and read information, formed on an end of said rail top surface of said slider; and

a protective film formed on said thin-film element part and defining a distal end of the rail whereby air exits said slider at said distal end,

said protective film having a first lateral recess which extends from said thin-film element part towards said distal end, and a second transverse recess generally perpendicular to said first lateral recess which extends from said thin-film element part toward said distal end,

said second recess being lower than said rail top surface and having a width defined by a width of said rail.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A magnetic disk apparatus comprising:
a head supporting part to carry a magnetic head claimed in claim 19, to write
and read information by enabling said head to float over a recording medium;
an arm part on which said head supporting part is provided; and
a driving part to move said arm part over said recording medium.

23-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) The magnetic head as claimed in claim 19,
wherein said second recess has a top surface substantially parallel to said rail top surface.

28. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The magnetic head as claimed in
claim 19, wherein said second recess has a tapered top surface.

29. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The magnetic head as claimed in
claim 19, wherein said second recess has a curved top surface.

30. (New) A magnetic head comprising:
a slider having a rail with a top surface;
a thin-film element part to write and read information, formed on an end of said

rail top surface of said slider; and

a protective film formed on said thin-film element part and defining a distal end of the rail whereby air exits said slider at said distal end,

said protective film having a recess which extends from said thin-film element part towards said distal end,

said recess being lower than said rail top surface and having a width equal to a width of said rail.